

App. No. 09/611,355
Amdt. Dated July 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2004
Atty. Dkt. No. 6550-100

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancelled) A method of providing medical care, comprising operations of:
 - a mobile care entity providing a network of predesignated mobile clinicians;
 - the mobile care entity providing the clinicians with use of preprogrammed portable computers, each portable computer coupled to a wireless communications interface and including local storage of patient data;
 - according to a predetermined schedule, each portable computer updating patient data in the local storage by utilizing the wireless communications interface to download updates from a central storage facility;
 - the mobile care entity receiving a request for medical services at a patient's premises, and responsive thereto, selecting one of the predesignated mobile clinicians and dispatching the selected clinician to the patient's premises;
 - the clinician visiting the patient's premises accompanied by a preselected collection of electronic medical care devices;
 - the clinician examining the patient, including selecting and operating one or more of the medical care devices to analyze one or more aspects of the patient's condition and prepare representative outputs;

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the clinician directing the portable computer to perform follow-up operations comprising:

electronically collecting the outputs and presenting them in human-readable form;

storing a machine-readable record including observations from the clinician's examination of the patient; and

utilizing the wireless communications interface to transmit the machine-readable record to the central storage facility.

2. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the medical care devices including at least one of the following:

an x-ray machine;

a cardiac output monitoring machine;

laboratory analyzer;

a pulse oximeter.

3. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

the clinician treating the patient; and

the clinician directing the portable computer to store a machine-readable record including a summary of the clinician's treatment of the patient.

4. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the wireless communications interlace comprising a mobile digital telephone.

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5. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the wireless communications interlace comprising an analog radio frequency transceiver.

6. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the clinician further directing the portable computer to perform operations comprising:

directing the portable computer and wireless communications interface to transmit selected machine-readable reports and records to a patient referral source;

7. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

each portable computer tracking and recording various event times related to the patient visit, including at least one of the following: dispatch time, travel time, patient visit time.

8. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the downloading of updates from the central storage facility being performed, via the public Internet.

9. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operation of utilizing the wireless communications interface to transmit the machine-readable record to the central storage facility comprising:

transmitting the record to the central storage facility via the public Internet.

10. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operation of the clinician examining the patient further comprising:

the clinician interconnecting one or more sensors between the patient and the portable computer;

the clinician directing the portable computer to gather machine-readable representations of bodily conditions measured by the sensors, and

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transmit the representations via the wireless communications interface to a remotely located electronic medical care device; and

the portable computer communicating with the remotely located device to obtain a machine-readable output representing analysis performed by the remotely located device.

11. (cancelled) The method of claim 13, the operation of obtaining, a machine-readable output representing analysis performed by the remotely located device further comprising:

the portable computer presenting the results in human-readable form to the clinician.

12. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operation of the clinician examining the patient further comprising:

the clinician directing the portable computer and communications interface to cooperatively engage in machine-readable communications with a remotely located electronic medical care device to report bodily conditions of the patient to the remotely located device and receive analysis based thereon.

13. (cancelled) The method of claim 12, the remotely located electronic medical care device including an ultrasound machine.

14. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

the clinician directing the portable computer and communications interface to obtain information provided by Internet web sites.

15. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

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while at the patient's premises, the clinician utilizing the portable computer to place orders for medical supplies over the Internet.

16. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

the operation of receiving a request for medical services at a patient's premises comprising the mobile care entity receiving patient medical information transmitted by a medical device located at the patient's premises.

17. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the dispatching of the selected clinician to the patients premises including sending wireless dispatch information to the selected clinician, including patient medical record information, current medical condition information, and patient location information.

18. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

responsive to the request for medical services, transmitting a machine-readable notification of the request to a pre-registered party.

19. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

responsive to the request for medical services, transmitting a machine-readable response to the patient including at least one of the following: posting a message upon an Internet web site, transmitting an e-mail message.

20. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

responsive to the request for medical services, transmitting a machine-readable notification of at least one of the following to the patient:

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geographic location of the selected clinician, and expected arrival time of the selected clinician at the patient's premises.

21. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

responsive to completion of the clinician's visit to the patient, conducting automatic computer-driven operations including generating and transmitting an e-mail notification to a pre-registered party.

22. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

responsive to completion of the clinician's visit to the patient, conducting automatic computer-driven operations including:

scheduling of a follow-up visit; and

transmitting machine-readable notification of the scheduled follow-up visit to a pre-registered party.

23. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the operations further comprising:

automated medical-condition monitoring equipment at the patient's premises generating and transmitting the request for medical services to the mobile care entity.

24. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the follow-up operations further comprising:

the clinician operating the portable computer to prepare and make wireless transmission of one or more orders for items related to the examination for delivery to the patient.

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25. (cancelled) The method of claim 1, the follow-up operations further comprising:

the clinician operating the portable computer to prepare and make wireless transmission of information to admit the patient to a hospital.

26. (cancelled) A computer-driven clinician device, comprising:

a wireless Internet-access device;

a medical care device interface;

local storage;

a digital data processor coupled to the device, interface, and local storage, the processor being programmed to perform operations comprising:

activating the Internet-access device to synchronize patient data contained in the local storage with data from a remotely located medical records database according to a predetermined schedule;

utilizing the interface to receive machine-readable outputs from electronic medical care devices representing analysis of a patient's medical condition;

directing the local storage to store a medical record including the machine-readable outputs; and

operating the Internet-access device to transmit the medical record to a remotely located storage facility.

27. (cancelled) The device of claim 16, where the interface is being a wireless interface.

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28. (cancelled) The device of claim 16, the processor being further programmed to perform operations comprising:

receiving machine-readable sensor output representing bodily conditions of the patient; and

employing the Internet-access device to transmit the sensor output to one or more remotely located electronic medical care devices and request analysis of the output by the devices.

29. (cancelled) The device of claim 16, the operations further comprising:

receiving a wireless dispatch notification from a remotely located call center.

30. (cancelled) The device of claim 16, further comprising:

mapping and location components programmed to identify a geographical location of the clinician device and prepare a map with directions to a prescribed. patient visit site.

31. (currently amended) A method of providing medical care comprising:

receiving patient medical information via an Internet web site;

executing a computer program to review said medical information and to request screening information from the patient to determine the severity of the medical condition of the patient;

determining whether or not the patient is appropriate to receive emergency care, in response to screening information received from the patient;

sending a message to the patient recommending he or she request emergency care at this time when emergency care is appropriate;

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executing a computer program for determining responsive to a determination that the patient does not require emergency care,
whether or not the patient is appropriate to receive a non-emergency house call, in response to screening information received from the patient via the internet web site;

sending a message to the patient recommending he or she not receive a non-emergency house call at this time when both an emergency house call and a non-emergency house call is are determined to be not appropriate;

accessing a computer data base to select appropriate personnel according to said a response personnel description to make a non-emergency house call when an emergency house call is determined to be not appropriate and a non-emergency house call is determined to be appropriate; and

sending wireless dispatch information to said appropriate personnel.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said accessing of said data base to select said appropriate personal comprises evaluating a current geographical location of a set of available personnel.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said accessing of said data base to select said appropriate personnel comprises evaluating scheduling information of a set of available personnel.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said accessing of said data base to select said appropriate personnel comprises evaluating medical equipment available to a set of available personnel.

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35. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein receiving said patient medical information via said internet web site comprises receiving said patient medical information automatically from a medical device co-located with a patient.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein sending wireless dispatch information includes sending patient medical record information, current medical condition information, and current patient location information.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising querying for additional medical information via said web site before executing said computer program.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising sending an email message to a registered party in response to receiving said medical information.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising responding via said web site in response to sending said wireless dispatch information.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said reviewing of medical information comprises accessing previously stored medical condition information.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the operation of executing said computer program comprises manual execution by trained personnel.

42. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising receiving electronic information from said selected personnel regarding treatment of the patient and storing said electronic information in a medical file.[]]

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43. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising receiving electronic information from said selected personnel regarding treatment of the patient and automatically generating a responsive bill.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising receiving electronic information from said selected personnel regarding treatment of the patient and notifying a registered party via an automatic e-mail message.

45. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, further comprising receiving electronic information from said selected personnel regarding treatment of the patient, automatically scheduling a follow-up visit, and notifying a registered party via an automatic e-mail message of said follow-up visit[.].

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

the selected personnel receiving wireless dispatch information concerning a patient including current location information, current medical symptoms and historic medical records;

the selected personnel following said location information to locate and treat said patient according to said wireless dispatch information;

the selected personnel entering medical treatment information in response to patient treatment; and

wirelessly transmitting said medical treatment information to a central location.

47. (currently amended) A method of providing medical care comprising:

receiving medical information automatically from a medical device located at a patient's current location;

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executing a computer program to review said medical information and to request screening information from the patient to determine the severity of the medical condition of the patient;

determining whether or not the patient is appropriate to receive emergency care, in response to screening information received from the patient;

sending a message to the patient recommending he or she request emergency care at this time when emergency care is appropriate;

executing a computer program for determining responsive to a determination that the patient does not require emergency care,
whether or not the patient is appropriate to receive a non-emergency house call, in response to screening information received from the patient via the medical device;

sending a message to the patient recommending he or she not receive a non-emergency house call at this time when both an emergency house call and a non-emergency house call is are determined to be not appropriate;

accessing a data base to select appropriate personnel to make a non-emergency house call when an emergency house call is determined to be not appropriate and a non-emergency house call is determined to be appropriate; and

sending wireless dispatch information to said appropriate personnel.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said accessing of said data base to select said appropriate personal comprises evaluating a current geographical location of a set of available personnel.

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49. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said accessing of said data base to select said appropriate personal comprises evaluating scheduling information of a set of available personnel.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said accessing of said data base to select said appropriate personnel comprises evaluating medical equipment available to a set of available personnel.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein receiving said patient medical information via said Internet web site comprises receiving said patient medical information automatically from a medical device co-located with a patient.

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein sending said wireless dispatch information includes sending patient medical record information, current medical condition information, and current patient location information.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising querying for additional medical information via said web site before executing said computer program.

54. (previously presented) the method of claim 47, further comprising sending an e-mail message to a registered party in response to receiving said medical information.

55. (currently amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising responding via said web site in response to sending said wireless dispatch information.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said reviewing of medical information comprises accessing previously stored medical condition information.

57. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the operation of executing said computer program comprises manual execution by trained personnel.

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58. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising receiving electronic information from said selected personnel regarding treatment of the patient and storing said electronic information in a medical file.

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising receiving electronic information from said selected personnel regarding treatment of the patient and automatically generating a responsive bill.

60. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising receiving electronic information from said selected personnel regarding treatment of the patient and notifying a registered party via an automatic e-mail message.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising receiving electronic information from said selected personnel regarding treatment of the patient, automatically scheduling a follow-up visit, and notifying a registered party via an automatic e-mail message Of said follow-up visit.

62. (cancelled) A method of patient treatment comprising:

receiving wireless dispatch information concerning a patient including
current location information, current medical symptoms, and historic
medical records;

following said location information to locate and treat said patient according
to said wireless dispatch information;

entering medical treatment information in response to patient treatment;
and

wirelessly transmitting said medical treatment information to a central
location.

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63. (cancelled) The method of claim 62, further comprising wirelessly ordering delivery of medication for said patient.

64. (cancelled) The method of claim 62, further comprising wirelessly ordering delivery of medical equipment for said patient.

65. (cancelled) The method of claim 62, wherein said medical treatment information comprises a request to automatically schedule a follow-up visit for said patient.

66. (cancelled) The method of claim 62, further comprising wirelessly contacting a predetermined party as to said medical treatment information via e-mail.

67. (cancelled) The method of claim 62, further comprising wirelessly transmitting admission information for admitting said patient to a hospital.

68. (cancelled) The method of claim 62, further comprising sending wireless notification of a current clinician location.

69. (currently amended) A method of providing medical care comprising:

receiving patient medical information;

executing a computer program to review said medical information and to request screening information from the patient to determine the severity of the medical condition of the patient;

determining whether or not the patient is appropriate to receive emergency care, in response to screening information received from the patient;

sending a message to the patient recommending he or she request emergency care at this time when emergency care is appropriate;

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requesting screening information from the patient to determine the severity of the medical condition of the patient;

executing a computer program for determining responsive to a determination that the patient does not require emergency care, whether or not the patient is appropriate to receive a non-emergency house call, in response to screening information received from the patient;

sending a message to the patient recommending he or she not receive a non-emergency house call at this time when both an emergency house call and a non-emergency house call is are determined to be not appropriate;

accessing a computer data base to select appropriate personnel according to said a response personnel description to make a non-emergency house call when if an emergency house call is determined to be not appropriate and a non-emergency house call is determined to be appropriate; and,

sending wireless dispatch information to appropriate personnel to make a non-emergency house call to the patient when such a house call is determined to be appropriate.

70. (previously presented) A method according to claim 69, further including sending or receiving messages electronically during a house call concerning the patient's medical condition.

71. (previously presented) A method according to claim 70, further including storing at least some of the messages locally.